



SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME



MONDAY,
26th SEPTEMBER, 1966
KICK-OFF 7.30 P.M.

—
1953
—
1965

Derek Wilkinson's Testimonial Match

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

VERSUS

ALL STAR XI

Hillsborough



F.A. Cup Winners 1896, 1907, 1935. League Champions 1902-3, 1903-4, 1928-29, 1929-30.
F.A. Cup Finalists 1890, 1966. League Runners up 1960-61.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY FOOTBALL CLUB

Established 1867

Colours: Shirts Royal Blue, White Sleeves and Collar, Shorts White,
Stockings Royal Blue.

President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Netherthorpe, LL.D.

Directors:

Chairman: Dr. A. Stephen, M.B., Ch.B. Vice-Chairman: H. Jessop,
R. P. Bowler C. Hemmingfield R. R. Gunstone R. E. Peasegood, F.R.C.S.E.

F. K. Gardiner, J.P., C. Turner, S. Ashton.

General Manager & Secretary: Eric W. Taylor. Team Manager: Alan W. Brown.

CLUB NOTES

FOOTBALLERS come and go, some quickly forgotten, others living longer in the memories of the fans they entertained.

The men who play the game at Football League level will be quick to tell you that there is nothing quite like it as a means of earning a living.

It has glamour, excitement and travel. A fine life, particularly for the individual who is both sensible and dedicated.

But soccer can have its moments of heartbreak too. It can be as cruel as it is often joyous.

It is a living in which one can be on top of the world one minute—and very much down in the dumps the next.

In short, a somewhat uncertain sort of living. Inevitably it throws up its share of "characters."

Allow us to tell you about one such character.

On 14th May this year a golfer out on a Lancashire course heard that Sheffield Wednesday were leading 1-0 in the Cup Final.

Immensely cheered he played on—and learned a few holes further on that they were two up.

Overjoyed he finished his round, got back to the clubhouse—and learned that the Owls had lost.

"I was brokenhearted," I hadn't been able to bring myself to watch the game on the television. That's why I was out on the golf course.

Derek Wilkinson said that the man was here to pay tribute to tonight.

That story sums up "Wilky's" attitude towards Sheffield Wednesday.

This testimonial match enables us to pay our tribute to him.

Derek Wilkinson was at Hillsborough for 12 years. He loved every minute of those years. It is not sentiment that makes us say that the feeling was mutual.

Derek, born in Stalybridge, came to us from Dukinfield in November, 1953. A year later, almost to the day, he made his League debut against Cardiff City.

Twelve years later—when he was 29—his career was over. On medical advice Derek had to give up the game.

In his last season at Hillsborough he fought an unending battle against injuries. Not once did Derek Wilkinson feel sorry for himself.

When Wilky walked into the dressing room the place took on a new vitality, a new warmth.

No club had a more cheerful player, or a more dedicated one.

The bald facts are that Derek played 212 League games for the Owls, scoring 34 goals.

He won Football League honours against the Scottish League and the League of Ireland.

But those simple facts do not tell the real story. Derek was a player loved by his colleagues and supporters alike.

He never gave less than his best, never less than 100 per cent effort.

He would play willingly in any position asked of him and though he was generally regarded as best on the wing—left or right—he played all over the front line.

He was in fact that highly valuable member of a football club, a utility player, but also a brilliant specialist footballer on his day.

You Sheffield fans will not need reminding of Derek's qualities.

You liked him from the start because he ALWAYS gave value for money. His own playing colleagues were always pleased to see him in the side. Opposition players respected his tremendously wholehearted approach to EVERY game.

Derek Wilkinson played as hard in a reserve match as he did in the first team. He was that kind of player.

A groin injury finished his playing career and Derek took up his old trade, French polishing.

Today he is making a new life for himself as a representative in the Manchester area.

Tonight Derek comes back to Hillsborough and regrets not being out there when the whistle goes.

"Golf is my life now. The injury saw to that, though I am certainly not looting sorry for myself. I had 12 grand years at Hillsborough and now I want to take this opportunity of thanking the club for staging this match all the players who are playing, the officials and, not least, the supporters."

Perhaps that sums up Derek Wilkinson. HE is grateful to all of us here tonight.

For our part, we are grateful to him for all the happy memories he gave us.

Have a happy testimonial, Derek!

During tonight's game an announcement will be made inviting you to take a look at our gymnasium behind the North Stand.

We hope that as many of you as possible will take advantage of this, for we are rightly proud of the building—and even prouder of how it came about.

We have never made any secret of the fact that without YOUR help this gymnasium, certainly among the finest in the country, would not have been built at this time.

Without the efforts of our Development Fund agents we would still be thinking and planning and saving for a gym. That's a fact.

And the Development Fund agents cannot do their work without hundreds and

thousands of people paying their shillings every week. That's another fact.

There have been those who have said that Hillsborough would not be the ground it is today—best in the British Isles outside Wembley Stadium—without Government aid.

This is only partially true. It should not be forgotten that the bulk of the £250,000 spent on the improvements at Hillsborough since August 1955 was provided by the club itself.

There has been progressive development here which would not have been possible without the help of thousands of our supporters who, by means of the "shilling a time" pools, have raised over £125,000.

For a long time we cherished the dream of a big gymnasium. We knew that it would be of untold value to the club—and so it will be.

YOUR efforts have made that dream come true far more quickly than might have been the case, would have been the case.

We are grateful to you for your efforts in the past—and the ones you continue to make week after week.

Please take a look at the gym. We are delighted with it. We are sure that you will be impressed too.

It proved a tremendous asset during the World Cup when we used it as a Press centre. It was big enough to be split up into a restaurant and a communications and Press centre in fact.

Now the wooden sprung flooring has been installed and we are putting the building to use. Thank you once again.

Finally a word on our attendance so far this season. Before Saturday's 195th "derby" we were averaging some 5,000 better than our overall average last season.

Now this is pretty good going and we are pleased about it naturally. We believe it proves that the support is there for Sheffield Wednesday if we can produce the goods out there where it matters—on the field.

We have made a reasonably good start to the season. We hope to do even better. We think you deserve the best.

OUR FULLY LICENSED REFRESHMENT BARS

provide an excellent service before, during and after the match

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

BLUE AND WHITE

ALL STAR XI

1. SPRINGETT, Ron
2. SMITH, Will
3. MEGSON, Don
4. MOBLEY, Vic.
5. ELLIS, Sam
6. YOUNG, Gerry
7. PUGH, Graham
8. FANTHAM, John
9. McCALLIOG, Jim
10. FORD, David
11. QUINN, John

Referee :
G. McCABE



Linesmen :
R. HARPER
(red flag) :
D. HARRISON
(yellow flag)

1. BANKS, Gordon
Leicester City
2. COLDWELL, Cec.
Sheffield United
3. SHAW, Graham
Sheffield United
4. HERD, George
Sunderland
5. SHAW, Joe
Sheffield United
6. HUNTER, Norman
Leeds United
7. CONNELLY, John
Blackburn Rovers
8. GILES, Johnny
Leeds United
9. DOUGAN, Derek
Leicester City
10. EASTHAM, George
Stoke City
11. MULHALL, George
Sunderland

DEREK'S RECORD

Highlights :

After a trial period as an Amateur, Derek signed professional forms on the 14th November, 1953.

Previous Club—Dukinfield F.C.

First Team debut v. Cardiff City at Cardiff on 13th November, 1954.

Played for the Football League v. Scottish League at Ibrox, Glasgow, 8th October, 1958.

Played in 212 League games for the Owls, scoring 54 goals—two of them in that memorable match v. Tottenham Hotspur on the night of 13th April, 1964 . . . remember ?

Derek played in upwards of another 40 First Team matches, F.A. Cup Ties, Friendlies, Tour matches, etc. and scored in quite a few of them . . . what about his 'brace' against Sheffield United at Bramall Lane in the Sixth Round match on 12th March, 1960, a win leading to our 12th appearance in an F.A. Cup Semi-Final . . . remember ?

WELL DONE DEREK

*Thank you all
for your support*